LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): An interface mechanism for interfacing at least an associated component of a capillary cartridge to at least an external component that provides to the associated component of the capillary cartridge a support element required by a bio-analytical process for a bio-sample, comprising:

a support structure supporting the cartridge in relation to the external component, wherein the support structure comprises a location device and an actuator that biases the location device against the capillary cartridge to positively position the capillary cartridge in relation to the external component;

at least one biasing device supported by the support structure, the biasing device supporting and biasing the external component against the associated component of the capillary cartridge, thereby providing the support element to the cartridge to conduct the bio-analytical process; and

a controller controlling operation of the biasing device and the location device, wherein the controller is configured to activate the location device to positively position the capillary cartridge prior to activating the biasing device to bias the external component against the associated component of the capillary cartridge.

2. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the biasing device comprises a compliant member supporting and biasing the external component against the associated component of the capillary cartridge when the capillary cartridge is supported by the support structure.

3. (Previously presented): The interface mechanism as in claim 2, wherein the external component provides incident radiation.

4. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the biasing device comprises an actuator operatively coupled to the external component.

5. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 4, wherein the actuator comprises at least one of a pneumatic actuator, a electromechanical actuator, and a mechanical actuator.

6. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 5, further comprising a source of compressed gas operatively coupled to the pneumatic actuator.

7. (Previously presented): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the capillary cartridge is interchangeable and removably supported by the support structure, and wherein the biasing device is structured to removably bias the external component against the associated component of the capillary cartridge to provide a quick connection.

8. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the external component is associated with a support element comprising at least one of electrical power, a pressurized gas, incident radiation, detection optics.

9. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the capillary cartridge comprises multiple separation channels, and wherein the support structure supports the capillary

cartridge in relation to a plurality of external components, wherein each external component is associated with a support element, and at least one external component being associated with each separation channel.

10. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 9, wherein the support element associated with each external component comprises at least one of electrical power, a pressurized gas, excitation radiation, detection optics.

11. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 9, wherein a plurality of external components are associated with each separation channel, the plurality of external components are associated with a plurality of support elements, including at least electrical power, a pressurized gas, incident radiation and detection optics for each separation channel.

12. (Previously presented): The interface mechanism as in claim 9, wherein at least one support element is provided by an external component that is separate from other external components associated with similar support element provided to other separation channels.

13. (Previously presented): The interface mechanism as in claim 12, wherein the external component provides to the associated component of the capillary cartridge, at least one of incident radiation, detection optics, and electrical power.

14. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 9, wherein at least one of the plurality of external components is associated with an associated component of the capillary cartridge which is common to the plurality of separation channels.

15. (Previously presented): The interface mechanism as in claim 14, wherein said at least one external component provides to the associated component of the capillary cartridge, at least one of a high voltage and a pressurized gas.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original): The interface mechanism as in claim 1, wherein the support structure is provided with a cooling conduit operatively coupled to the capillary cartridge to direct cooling air to the capillary cartridge.

19. (Currently amended): A bio-analytical system for conducting a bio-analytical process for a bio-sample in a capillary cartridge, comprising:

a support for a sample;

an interface mechanism for interfacing the capillary cartridge to a support element required by the bio-analytical process, comprising:

at least an external component that provides to the capillary cartridge the support element required by the bio-analytical process;

a support structure supporting the cartridge in relation to the external component and the sample, wherein the support structure comprises a location device and an actuator that biases the location device against the capillary cartridge to positively position the capillary cartridge in relation to the external component;

at least one biasing device supported by the support structure, the biasing device supporting and biasing the external component against a designated component of the capillary cartridge, thereby providing the support element to the cartridge to conduct the bio-analytical process; and

a controller controlling the bio-analytical process in the capillary cartridge, including controlling operation of the interfacing mechanism including controlling operation of the biasing device and the location device, wherein the controller is configured to activate the location device to positively position the capillary cartridge prior to activating the biasing device to bias the external component against the associated component of the capillary cartridge.

20. (Original): The bio-analytical system as in claim 19, wherein the interface mechanism comprises all the optics in the system.